

BAJA CALIFORNIA EXPEDITION UNDER WAY

THE ADVANCE PARTY of a two-month long expedition to Baja California left the Academy this week, driving a special four-wheel drive Travelall truck which will be used both for transportation and as a collecting depot for members of the expedition. Hugh B. Leech, Associate Curator of Entomology at the Academy, and Alan Leviton, Acting Assistant Curator of Herpetology, are making the trip in the truck.

They will be joined on December 17 by Dr. Ira L. Wiggins, President of the Academy, who will fly to La Paz, and on January 4 by Allyn G. Smith of the Department of Geology, and Lewis I. Rose of the Department of Botany.

The expedition, which will wind up at the end of January, is the first phase of a protracted investigation of the biology of Baja California with emphasis on botany. Cost of the project is being underwritten by a friend of the Academy.

ACADEMY PATRON DIES

A LONGTIME FRIEND of the Academy, Owen Bryant of Montara died at the age of 76 on October 26, 1958, just a little more than 12 years after he became a Patron of the Academy.

During the years Mr. Bryant was associated with the Academy he contributed to the Entomology Department at least 150,000 insect specimens, mostly beetles, as well as many valuable entomological books.

Some years ago, Mr. Bryant purchased a vacant school building in Montara and converted it into a laboratory for the study of beetles and other insects. He lived there with his wife, Lucy, until her death in 1953. He is survived by a cousin, Mrs. Robert Gill of Palo Alto.

ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

DR. DINSMORE ALTER, Astronomer and Director Emeritus of Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, will be guest speaker at the December meeting of the Academy's Astronomy Section to be held at 8:15 P. M., Wednesday, December 17, in May Treat Morrison Auditorium. He will speak on "The Nature of the Lunar Surface."

Dr. Alter, one of the world's authorities on the moon, will illustrate his talk with slides selected from nearly 500 photographs he has taken of the moon with the 60-inch telescope at Mt. Wilson Observatory. Academy members and their friends, as well as members of the Astronomy Section, are invited to attend this lecture.

NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS who joined the Academy last month are:

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Lewis J. Ansell
Mr. Harold Gilliam
Miss Rosemary Halley
Mr. Henry Hoey
Mr. Forrest Murray
Mr. Walter J. Prather
Miss Wilma Rockman

Mr. Raymond L. Russell, Jr.
Mr. Theodore L. Steinhauer

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. John A. Anderson
Miss Sydney A. Arner
Mr. Evan Huie
Mr. Lynn Kirkhofer
Mr. Donald E. Nicol

Mr. Donald Patterson
Mr. William D. Piercy
Mr. Roger Swearingen

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Harvey C. Cranfill

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Sandra MacArthur

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

NUMBER 228

DECEMBER 1958

December Announcement

THE REGULAR DECEMBER MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 P. M., Monday, December 8, in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium. William H. Wagoner, Jr., who has been a photographer since he was 12 years old, will be this month's Walter B. Scaife Foundation lecturer. Wagoner and his wife, June, operate as a team; spending much of their time climbing mountains, exploring undersea coral reefs and packing into remote wilderness areas of the United States such as the area presented in Wagoner's color motion picture:

"A TOUCH OF THE TROPICS"

Southern Florida is a watery, subtropical world where jungle meets swamp; where the bay touches islands, keys and sunken reefs. Here North America encounters the tropics in a unique region—the Everglades.

Along aisles formed by moss-hung cypress trees, alligators laze in the sun or slide silently away. Birds of the Everglades—ibis and egret—wing their way overhead returning from the feeding grounds to the rookeries. This is the region the Wagoners capture in their color motion picture and as the Everglades trails open out upon the waters of Florida Bay, the motion picture camera records this brilliant contrast to the inland. On the oceanside of the keys, the nesting places of eagles, ospreys and spoonbills, the Wagoners explore the sub-surface marine world of the coral reefs. All of this has been combined into the Audubon Screen Tour lecture, "A Touch of the Tropics," which Academy members and their friends are cordially invited to see.

JANUARY MEETING

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, the San Francisco *Chronicle* carried a series of articles written by a lover of both nature and the vanishing hobby of traveling on foot.

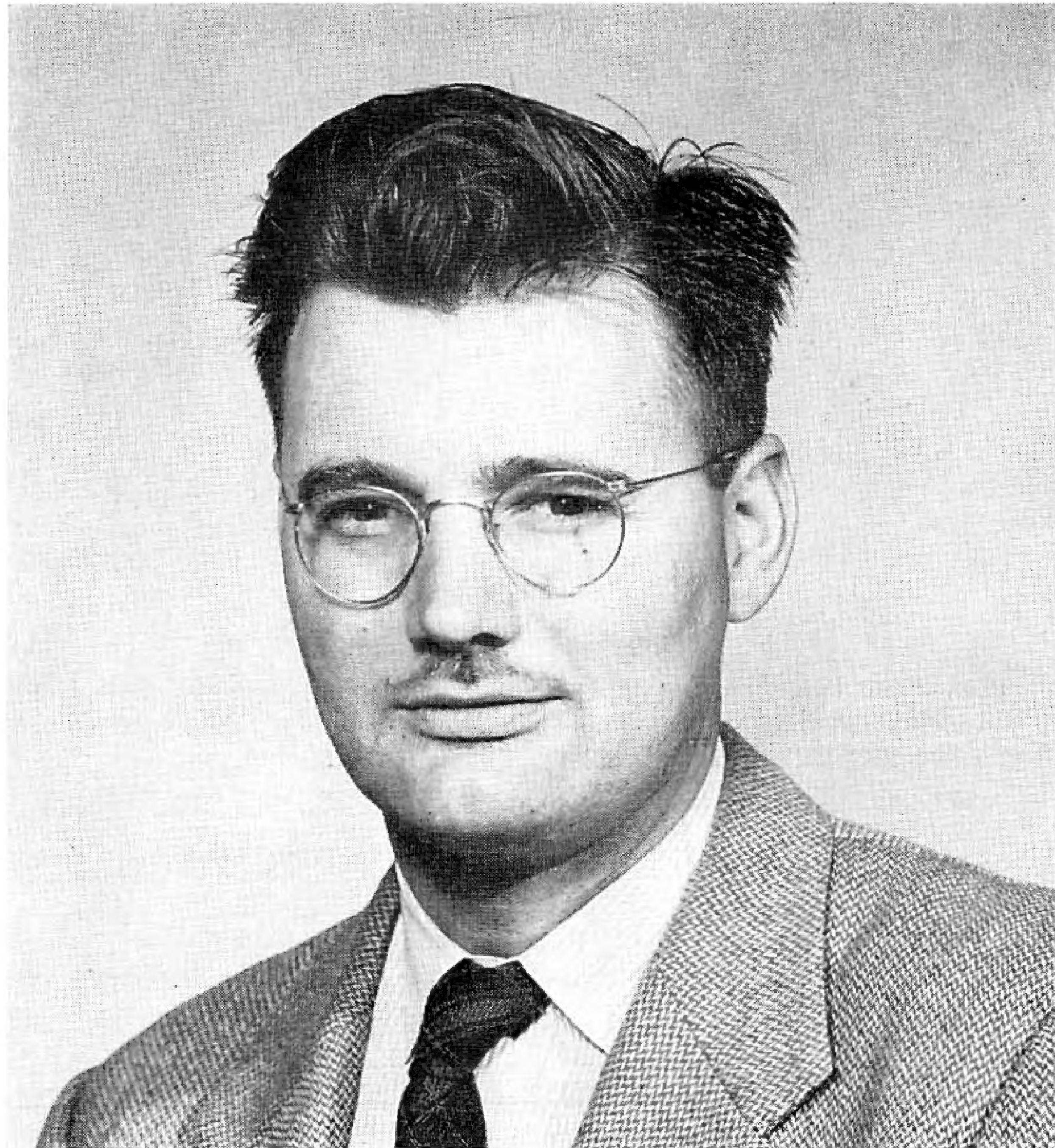
The writer's name is Colin Fletcher, the man who set out to walk the length of California—via the uninhabited portions—from the Mexican border to the Oregon line. Besides his notebook and pencil, Fletcher also carried a camera and his observations of California's wilderness scenery and its flora and fauna were recorded in Kodachrome slides as well as in print.

Hiker-writer-photographer Fletcher will tell of his experiences on the long walk and show his slides to Academy members at the regular January meeting to be held at 8:15 P. M., Wednesday, January 14.

Published Monthly by

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO



CECIL TOSE
1912-1958

CECIL TOSE, Curator of the Department of Exhibits in the California Academy of Sciences, died on November 4, 1958, after being ill since August.

Mr. Tose was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, March 5, 1912. Subsequently the family moved to British Columbia, then to San Francisco in 1922, when Cecil's father, the late Frank Tose, joined the staff of the California Academy of Sciences. Cecil was educated in the San Francisco public schools, and at the University of California, where he majored in Zoology and Anthropology.

Cecil quite literally grew up around the Academy. His name appears in the Annual Report for 1924 as a "student assistant," he being at that time 12 years old! From his father, who was head of the Academy's Department of Exhibits for many years, he learned taxidermy and the various other phases of museum technique. Subsequently he had a period of training in the James Clark Studios in New York City.

He ably assisted his father in the preparation and installation of the 24 lifelike dioramas in the first unit of the Simson African Hall, completed in 1934. The "Leopard" in this Hall was selected by Laurence Vail Coleman as the only natural history diorama pictured in his three-volume work, *The Museum in America*. That leopard was mounted by Cecil Tose.

When Frank Tose died in 1944, the Academy was deeply engaged in the war effort and matters in the Department of Exhibits were almost at a standstill. When the Department was reorganized following the war, it was natural that Cecil should be appointed head—a distinguished son succeeding a distinguished father. He inherited his father's ability and versatility, and with these, backed by the years of training and experience begun in boyhood, he was able to take up where the elder Tose left off, and push the Academy's program of exhibits to new heights of beauty, modernization and educational significance. He was not only a talented artist and technician, but also a brilliant planner of exhibits. All of the Academy's newer exhibits, with their emphasis on color, lighting and pleasing arrangement, are a tribute to his genius.

Personally he was a tall, quiet man, unassuming almost to the point of shyness, generally serious but with an underlying sense of humor that often erupted in brilliant flashes of wit—a man of few words but many friends. We shall not find another like him.

He is survived by his wife, Emma, and two children, Christine and Frank.

Friends have established a Cecil Tose Memorial Fund at the Academy, to which memorial contributions may be made. One contributor wrote "I have never met Mr. Tose but I have enjoyed his work. I hope that this can be used to help carry on his work."

NEW EXHIBIT INSTALLED

THE "CANADA VISITS CALIFORNIA" exhibit which attracted many school classes and other groups in the two months it was on display, has been dismantled and returned to the Canadian government. Replacing it in the Academy's Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature is an extensive exhibit sponsored by the American Museum of Atomic Energy at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The atomic exhibit, which was installed late last month and which will remain on view through February of 1959, is entitled "Atoms for Peace." The exhibit illustrates the basic principles of atomic energy and shows many peaceful applications in the fields of medicine, research, agriculture, and industry.

NEW MEMBERS JOIN STAFF

MRS. DORCAS MACCLINTOCK is now departmental assistant to Dr. Robert T. Orr, Curator of Birds and Mammals, except on Wednesdays, when her duties are taken over by Mrs. Bonnie Bortin.

In the Academy's Television Department, Rosamond Fowler recently joined the staff as Production Assistant for "Explorers of Tomorrow," the Academy's television series for intermediate school students.

The most recent new face on the Academy's staff belongs to Peter Benson, who is now in charge of the Film Library as well as being a Supervisor of the Student Section.